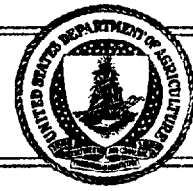




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PHOSPHORUS MENACE TO DUCKS  
REMOVED FROM ABERDEEN AREA

The thousands of migrating ducks that rest on the waters near the Aberdeen Proving Ground at the head of the Chesapeake Bay in Maryland are this year feeding in safety, without the menace of phosphorus poisoning, which for many seasons made this area a deathtrap for waterfowl, reports the Bureau of Biological Survey, U.S. Department of Agriculture.

Firing with trench-mortar shells at the Proving Ground more than 10 years ago scattered thousands of pounds of phosphorus in the shallow water among the beds of wild celery and other plants on which ducks feed. This contaminated area took its toll of birds until the cause of their death was finally established. The Government then went to the expense of providing guards and equipment to prevent the ducks from feeding there.

For several years Biological Survey officials and conservation organizations, supported by the recommendations of the War Department, have urged action to remove this menace, but without effective results because of lack of funds. In the last year, the Public Works Administration made an allotment for the modernization of the Aberdeen Proving Ground and the dredging of a much-needed channel to the docks. The dredging operation by the Army Corps of Engineers supplied material for covering the contaminated area. A layer of earth several feet deep has been spread over the entire poisoned tract of about 12 acres, and levees have been constructed to help retain this protective soil.

The vicinity of the Proving Ground, says the Biological Survey, is a favorite concentration point for canvasback ducks, a species that has decreased alarmingly in recent years, and it will be gratifying to sportsmen and conservationists to learn of the removal from this area of such a serious and long-standing menace to our migratory waterfowl.

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